# **Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund**

October 2022



## **FUND OBJECTIVE**

To provide investors with regular income stream through Shariah-compliant investment.

FUND DETAILS					
Launch Date	13 February 2015	Domicile	Malaysia		
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000		
Units in Circulation	16.00 million units (31 October 2022)	Fund Size	RM18.11 million (31 October 2022)		
Unit NAV	RM1.1320 (31 October 2022)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)		
Fund Manager	Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad	Target Fund	Affin Hwang Aiiman Select Income Fund		
Benchmark	70% 12-month Maybank General Investment Account (GIA) + 30% FTSE Bursa Malaysia EMAS Shariah Index	Taxation	8% of annual investment income		
Risk Profile	Suitable for investors:  Have a moderate risk appetite Expect incidental growth in capital Want an investment that complies with Shariah requirements	Fees	<ul> <li>Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund.</li> <li>Up to 1.2% p.a. fund management charge is applied on the target fund's NAV by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad.</li> </ul>		

ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND			
Sukuk & Islamic Money Market Instruments	Shariah-compliant Equities	Cash & Others	
Min 60%; Max 100%	Min 0%; Max 40%	Remaining Balance	

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SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND			
Utilities	18.4%		
Industrials	16.9%		
Telecommunications	13.5%		
Financial Services	10.2%		
Energy	7.8%		
Consumer Discretionary	5.8%		
Real Estate	5.4%		
Banks	4.2%		
Consumer Staples	3.9%		
Financials	3.6%		
Technology	2.7%		
Others	3.5%		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4.1%		
Total	100.0%		

TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (SUKUK)				
Bonds Issuer	Coupon	Maturity Date	%	
MMC Corp Berhad	5.64%	27.04.27	4.4	
Celcom Networks Sdn Bhd	5.27%	28.10.26	4.4	
WCT Holdings Bhd	5.80%	27.09.49	4.3	
UiTM Solar Power Sdn Bhd	6.00%	26.04.30	4.3	
Lebuhraya DUKE Fasa 3 Sdn Bhd	5.95%	23.08.34	4.2	
TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (EQUITIES)				
Telkom Indonesia Persero Tbk PT				
Telekom Malaysia Bhd				
Swire Pacific Limited				
Singapore Telecom Ltd				
ComfortDelGro Corporation Ltd				

### PERFORMANCE RECORD

This fund feeds into Affin Hwang AIIMAN Select Income Fund ("target fund") with the objective to provide investors with regular income stream through Shariah-compliant investments. The target fund will invest in a diversified portfolio of Sukuks, Shariah-compliant equities and Islamic money market instruments.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund versus its benchmark as at 31 October 2022:

%	YTD	1M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	-7.55	-1.16	-3.69	-9.03	-3.08	0.37	13.20
Benchmark	-3.41	1.37	-3.32	-3.93	1.60	3.67	12.04

<sup>\*</sup> Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance which may differ. The fund performance is not guaranteed.

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### **FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

- The broader MSCI Asia ex-Japan index fell 6.1% dragged down by losses in China. The MSCI China index plunged by over 16.8% as COVID flare-ups and policy uncertainty post-Congress weigh on risk sentiment.
- In China's 20th Party Congress Xi Jinping was elected as its general secretary for an unprecedented third term, further cementing his leadership. Markets were jittery as President Xi's further consolidation of power together with his close allies fueled risk that disruptive past policies like Beijing's tech regulatory crackdown and its strict zero COVID strategy would continue.
- After the sell-off in the previous month, MGS yields saw a relief in October as longer-tenured yields fell amidst possibility of central banks slowed down their pace of rates hiking.
- Headline inflation tapered off to +4.5% in September, suggesting the headline inflation has likely peaked. However, the core CPI figures continued to tick higher at +4.0% amidst elevated commodity prices, strong demand and tight labor markets. Due to the elevated inflation level and strong economic growth, BNM raised rates by 25 bps in the OPR rate to bring it to 2.75% by year end.

#### STRATEGY:

- The fund's fixed income exposure was further increased to around 70%, while equity exposure was maintained at around 27%.
- We expect market volatility to remain high as global central banks continue to be aggressive in their monetary policy to curb high levels of inflation. The intensive policy action towards combating inflation has led to higher probability of interest rates overtightening as well as rising recession risk especially in the Europe and US.
- We expect BNM to stay ahead by normalizing OPR further on the back of elevated inflation and still robust economic growth. A hike of 25bps for OPR in November MPC meeting will bring OPR to 2.75% in 2022. Expectation for next year will be 1-2 hikes to bring the terminal rates to 3.00 -3.25% next year.
- We anticipate BNM-Fed divergence, in terms of tightening pace and terminal rate, will stay. Hence, there will be upwards pressure on MGS yields and increased risk of foreign outflows.
- We continue to prefer a defensive approach in November. Local bond market will continue to remain sidelined as investors are still adjusting to hawkish global central banks, inflation outlook and the outcome of the general election. The risk remains if UST continue to rise, and foreign portfolio outflow accelerates
- Rates strategy: US Treasuries, global and local rates to remain volatile due to central banks' hawkish stances against inflation. Local bond yield curve could bear flatten if the recession narrative is played out. Maintain a defensive stance. However, current valuations are attractive and will be looking to trade opportunistically.
- Credit strategy: Preference for mid tenure bonds at attractive valuations. Selective, buying into strong credit fundamental names while looking to participate in and switch into primary issuances for better yield.
- Duration strategy: We take a more defensive stance and target for a short to neutral duration.
- For equities, we are positive on banks, which are expected to see healthy loan growth and improving asset quality. We also like technology companies from a long term perspective, where we see value emerging after the recent heavy selloff, driven by secular growth trends (e.g. 5G, EV, solar energy). We also favor reopening beneficiaries such as the gaming and commodities which benefits from business recovery anchored by a full reopening of the economy.

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#### **RISKS**

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

### Manager's Risk

This risk refers to the day-to-day management of the target fund by Affin Hwang which will impact the performance of the target fund. For example, investment decisions undertaken by Affin Hwang as a result of an incorrect view of the market or any non-compliance with internal policies, investment mandate, the deed, relevant law or guidelines due to factors such as human error, fraudulent, dishonesty or weaknesses in operational process and systems, may adversely affect the performance of the target fund.

## Inflation Risk

This is the risk that your investment in the target fund may not grow or generate income at a rate that keeps pace with inflation. This would reduce your purchasing power even though the value of the investment in monetary terms has increased.

### Credit/Default risk

Credit risk relates to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the investment (Sukuk and Islamic money markets instruments) and their expected ability to make timely payment of profit and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuers may impact the value as well as liquidity of the investment. In the case of rated investments, this may lead to a credit downgrade. Default risk relates to the risk of an issuer of the investment either defaulting on payments or failing to make payments in a timely manner which will in turn adversely affect the value of the investment. This could adversely affect the value of the target fund.

### **Counterparty risk**

This risk concerns with the target fund's investment in Shariah-compliant derivatives where the other party in an agreement may default on the terms of the agreement. Generally, counterparty risk can be reduced by emphasis on credit analysis of the counterparty to determine its creditworthiness.

## Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of Sukuk. When interest rates rise, Sukuk's prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the target fund's investment in Sukuk. The reverse may apply when interest rates fall. In order to mitigate interest rate risk, Affin Hwang will need to manage the debt portfolio taking into account the coupon rate and time to maturity of the Sukuk.

Note: Interest rate is a general indicator that will have an impact on the management of the target fund regardless of whether it is a Shariah-based fund or otherwise. It does not in any way suggest that the target fund will invest in conventional financial instruments.

#### Stock Specific Risk

Prices of a particular Shariah-compliant stock may fluctuate in response to the circumstances affecting individual companies such as adverse financial performance, news of a possible merger or loss of key personnel of a company. Any adverse price movements of such Shariah-compliant stock will adversely affect the target fund's NAV.

## Shariah-compliant warrants investment risk

The value of the Shariah-compliant warrants will depend on the pricing of the underlying security whereby the growth and performance prospect of the underlying security would consequentially affect the value of the Shariah-compliant warrants. In addition, the value of the Shariah-compliant warrants may decrease exponentially as the Shariah-compliant warrants approach their maturity date and the potential gains from a favourable price movement of the underlying security may be offset by aggressive time decay. Affin Hwang may consider unwinding these Shariah-compliant warrants if there are material adverse changes to its value with the aim to mitigate the risk.

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### **RISKS (CONTINUED)**

### **Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk arises in two scenarios. The first scenario is where an investment cannot be sold due to unavailability of a buyer for that investment. The second scenario exists where the investment, by its nature, is thinly traded. This will have the effect of causing the investment to be sold below its fair value which would adversely affect the NAV of the target fund.

## **Currency risk**

As the investments of the target fund may be denominated in currencies other than the base currency, any fluctuation in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currencies in which the investments are denominated may have an impact on the value of these investments. You should note that any gains or losses arising from the fluctuation in the exchange rate may further increase or decrease the returns of the investment.

## Regulatory risk

The investments of the target fund will be exposed to changes in the laws and regulations in the countries the target fund is invested in. These regulatory changes pose a risk to the target fund as it may materially impact the investments of the target fund. In an effort to manage and mitigate such risk, Affin Hwang seeks to continuously keep abreast of regulatory developments (for example, by closely monitoring announcements on regulators' website and mainstream medias) in that country. Affin Hwang Affin Hwang may dispose its investments in that particular country should the regulatory changes adversely impact the unit holders' interest or diminish returns to the target fund.

## **Country risk**

Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in the economic and political climate, restriction on currency repatriation or other developments in the law or regulations of the countries in which the target fund invests in. For example, the deteriorating economic condition of such countries may adversely affect the value of the investments undertaken by the target fund in those affected countries. This in turn may cause the NAV of the target fund to fall.

## Reclassification of Shariah status risk

This risk refers to the risk that the currently held Shariah-compliant equities in the target fund may be reclassified to be Shariah non-compliant in the periodic review of the equities by the Shariah Advisory Council of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SACSC), the Shariah Adviser or the Shariah boards of the relevant Islamic indices. If this occurs, Affin Hwang will take the necessary steps to dispose of such equities. There may be opportunity loss to the target fund due to the target fund not being allowed to retain the excess capital gains derived from the disposal of the Shariah non-compliant equities. Affin Hwang will be required to dispose of these equities immediately if the prices are above the purchase price. Should the prices be below the purchase price, Affin Hwang may choose to hold on to these holdings until the prices meet the purchase price. Nevertheless, should Affin Hwang decide to dispose of these equities below the purchase price, the target fund will be faced with the risk of realising its losses, thus negatively impacting the NAV of the target fund.

Source : Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad

Date : 31 October 2022

#### Disclaimer:

The benchmark performance is not a guide to future performances which may differ. The performance of the fund is not guaranteed. The value of the fund will fluctuate and may fall below the amount of contributions paid and the fund value depends on the actual performance of the underlying investment. This material is for information purposes only and is subject to change at any time without notice. Sun Life Malaysia does not guarantee its accuracy, completeness, correctness or timeliness for any purpose or reason. This information should not be considered as advice or recommendation in relation to your account or particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. You may not revise, transform, or build upon this material without prior written consent of Sun Life Malaysia. Before acting on any information you should seek independent financial advice. Sun Life Malaysia may suspend the unit pricing and defer the payment of benefits, other than death and total and permanent disability benefits, subscription or redemption of units, switching of funds, under this contract for a reasonable period in exceptional circumstances, such as and including intervening events resulting in temporary closure of any stock exchange.